

In the Claims:

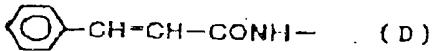
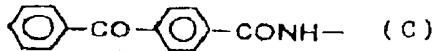
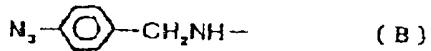
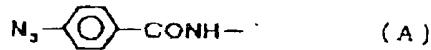
Please cancel claims 13-23 and 26 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows:

24. (Currently Amended) A functional chitosan derivative characterized by being formed by incorporating to an at least partially deacetylated chitin/chitosan at least one functional group selected from:

— ~~a carbohydrate having a reducing terminal selected from lactose, maltose, melibiose, cellobiose, laminaribiose and mannobiase and equivalents thereof and being incorporated to an amino group at the 2-position of a glucosamine unit constituting said chitin/chitosan;~~

— ~~a photo-reactive functional group selected from the following (A)-(D) and equivalents thereof:~~



and being incorporated to an amino group at the 2-position of a glucosamine unit constituting said chitin/chitosan;

— ~~an amphipathic group being incorporated to an amino group at the 2-position of a glucosamine unit constituting said chitin/chitosan or a hydroxyl group at the 3-position or 6-position of a glucosamine unit or an acetylglucosamine unit constituting said chitin/chitosan;~~

— a glycosaminoglycan being incorporated to an amino group at the 2-position of a glucosamine unit constituting said chitin/chitosan.

25. (Currently Amended) A health-care material comprising a functional chitosan derivative as recited in ~~any one of claims 13-24~~ claim 24.

Please add the following claim:

27. (New) The functional chitosan derivative of claim 24 characterized by being formed by incorporating to said at least partially deacetylated chitin/chitosan at least one additional functional group selected from:

- a carbohydrate having a reducing terminal selected from lactose, maltose, melibiose, cellobiose, laminaribiose and mannobiase and equivalents thereof and being incorporated to an amino group at the 2-position of a glucosamine unit constituting said chitin/chitosan;
- an amphipathic group being incorporated to an amino group at the 2-position of a glucosamine unit constituting said chitin/chitosan or a hydroxyl group at the 3-position or 6-position of a glucosamine unit or an acetylglucosamine unit constituting said chitin/chitosan; and
- a glycosaminoglycan being incorporated to an amino group at the 2-position of a glucosamine unit constituting said chitin/chitosan.